

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-21 are pending.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Campagnolo (US 6,623,389). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to attend to the examiner's objection to the use of the phrase "may be coupled" in claim 1. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first gear, the second gear and the gear support are coupled together so that the first gear, the second gear and the gear support so coupled together are structured to be coupled to and removed from the drive component and the driven portion of the bicycle component as a self-contained unit.

Campagnolo discloses a motor and reduction gear assembly (27) comprising a motor (35), a reduction gear assembly (29), and an optical encoder assembly (32) all housed within a common casing or body (28). The office action refers to optical encoder assembly (32) as a gear assembly, but the office action identified neither the claimed drive component nor the claimed driven component. The only component that appears to satisfy the claimed drive component is motor (35). However, there is no basis to conclude that optical encoder assembly (32) is structured to be removed as a unit from motor (35), especially since both components are contained with the common sealed body (28). The same is true if reduction gear assembly (29) is interpreted to correspond to the claimed first and second gears.

Claim 21 recites a gear reduction apparatus comprising a gear support, a first gear coupled to the gear support for receiving rotational drive force from a drive component, and a second gear coupled to the gear support. The first gear and the second gear are supported in the gear support by plastic gear support parts. Campagnolo neither discloses nor suggests such features.

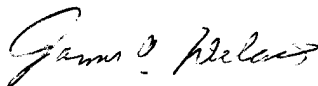
Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

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PATENT

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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